

(19)



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(11) Publication number:

0 474 340 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION(21) Application number: **91306128.9**(51) Int. Cl.⁵: **G06F 9/44**(22) Date of filing: **05.07.91**(30) Priority: **14.08.90 US 567389**(43) Date of publication of application:
11.03.92 Bulletin 92/11(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT NL(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
13.01.93 Bulletin 93/02(71) Applicant: **DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION**
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(54) **Methods and apparatus for providing dynamic invocation of applications in a distributed heterogeneous environment.**

(57) A method and apparatus providing for the interaction of processes in an object-oriented manner by which a system manages "classes" of data instances and applications rather than managing the data itself. The names of classes may be stored in a data base which also contains other information about the classes, such as certain common attributes of applications or instances which are supported by the classes. Applications can remotely invoke other applications by sending messages with parameters. Using the message names, as well as information about the classes of certain parameters and certain preference information, a reference to a specific method is selected from the data base. That method will perform the operation specified in the message. Other information in the data base is then used to locate and execute the actual code to implement the referenced method.

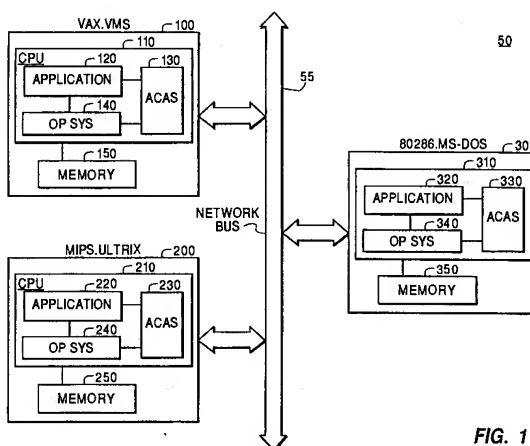


FIG. 1

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 05 NOVEMBER 1992	Examiner TALLOEN J.M.F.S.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 05 NOVEMBER 1992	Examiner TALLOEN J.M.F.S.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	